



Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

19 FEB 1985

The Honorable William H. Taft IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Will:

We have received your letter of 7 February requesting review of the draft Charter and agenda of the "Chemical Warfare Review Commission." The scope of the Commission's inquiry is outside the charter of the Intelligence Community and I therefore will refrain from comment on its purpose and substance. The Intelligence Community will continue, however, to provide support where requested and appropriate. I would like to emphasize that several of the proposed briefing topics in the Charter involve very sensitive material, and it is essential that the members of the Commission be cleared through appropriate channels prior to access to these classified materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "WJ Casey", written in a cursive style.

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Letter for Deputy Secretary of Defense re Chemical Warfare  
Deterrence from the DCI

A/NIO/AL/PM:

14 February 1985

NIC 00812-85

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## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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7 FEB 1985

Honorable William J. Casey  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Bill:

The Executive Order, 12502, signed on 28 January 1985, established the bipartisan "Chemical Warfare Review Commission" which was required by the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1985. The purpose of the Commission is to review national policy and programs for deterring chemical warfare. In their review the Commission will be tasked to provide sequential reports on basic issues by 1 April 1985. If the Commission agrees with the Administration's logic, then the three issues to be addressed will be:

1. Task Number 1: Should the United States continue to have a chemical retaliatory capability and chemical defense to deter chemical, biological and toxin attacks against the U.S. and its allies?

2. Task Number 2: If the Commission finds that the United States should continue to maintain a chemical retaliatory capability to deter chemical attack, is the current U.S. chemical stockpile sufficient for that purpose and, in particular, is the current U.S. chemical stockpile of unitary chemical weapons a credible deterrent to the Soviet Union's use of chemical weapons against the United States and its allies?

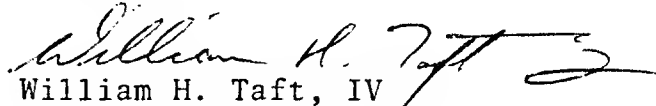
3. Task Number 3: If the Commission determines that chemical weapons are the best means of deterring chemical warfare and that the current United States stockpile is, or will become insufficient for this purpose, what should be done?

I believe that the Commission could perform a salutary service by acting as the catalyst needed to form the national consensus necessary to reestablish a credible deterrent capability. I solicit your support in this effort to ensure that the Commission receives the appropriate information in the chemical warfare arena. I have also sent this letter to the Secretary of State and the Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The Commission Chairman and members are expected to be named by the President soon. I believe that such a Commission, made up of prominent national leaders, deserves first hand information

from principal Administration leaders. The Commission's proposed activities are addressed in the attached Charter, draft agenda and tentative schedule. Request that you review the draft and forward any recommendations for appropriate modifications not later than 15 February 1985.

Point of contact is LTC Frank Sisti, Staff Manager,  
Presidential Review Commission on Chemical Warfare Deterrence,  
695-1097.

Sincerely,

  
William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Attachments